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A migrant child is defined as a member of a family of agricultural workers who must travel a great distance to work. The workers follow a seasonal course, often through several states, and return home after the crop season is over. There are about 415,000 migrant children under 14 years of age in the United States. In 1960 the migrant farm worker earned an average of $19.00 per week.

Forced by economic necessity to travel, the migrant child moves from school to school. He falls behind in his school studies and thus falls below his normal grade level. Extreme mobility coupled with low income produces a series of handicaps for the migrant child; poor health, poor nutrition, poor housing, not enough time in school, and community rejection all affect him. Settlement at a home base, where relationships to an established community can occur, is encouraged. Stability in the child's family can be helped by introducing an orderly system into the present chaotic situation in demand and supply of farm labor. This requires giving the farm worker steady work, and giving the farmer a dependable supply of labor when and where he needs it. Efforts should be made to adapt community services to meet the specialized needs of the migrant child. Communication between farmers, farm workers, and operating personnel in public and private agencies should be established to avoid friction and to avoid wasting efforts regarding the needs of the migrant children. A cooperative effort should be made to up-grade the skills and living conditions of migratory farm workers and their children.

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MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

by

Florence R. Wyckoff
Chairman

of

Subcommittee on Families Who Follow the Crops, California
Governor's Advisory Committee on Children and Youth.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
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MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

by
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ABSTRACT

A "Migrant child" is defined as part of a family of agricultural workers who must travel to work locations beyond normal commuting distance from home, following a seasonal course, often through several states and returning home after the crop season is over. There are about 415,000 migrant children under 14 years of age in the United States. In 1960 the migrant farm worker earned an average of $19.00 per week, the non-migrant farm worker $22.00 per week, and the factory worker $90.00 per week. The average size of migrant family ranges from 1.9 in Florida to 6.5 in Texas.

Forced by economic necessity to travel, the migrant child must move from school to school and tends to fall behind in his studies. Eighty-seven percent of migratory children were found to be below normal grade level at age 15. Extreme mobility coupled with low income produces a series of handicaps each compounding the other: poor health, poor nutrition, poor housing, not enough time in school, community rejection, all combine to create a trap in which the migrant child is caught. One way out of the trap is to encourage settlement at a home base where relationships to an established community may begin. Since the child is part of a family engaged in farm work, his fate is tied to the employment pattern of his parents. Only through decasualization of farm work can any measure of stability be introduced to his family. It will require a concerted effort on the part of agriculture, government and the rural community working together to solve two questions: how to give the farm worker steady work, and how to give the farmer a dependable supply of labor when and where he needs it. While attempts are under way to introduce order into the farm labor picture efforts should be stepped up to adapt community services to meet the specialized needs of the migrant child. Friction and waste effort can be avoided at the community level by taking action to improve communication between farmers, farm workers and operating personnel in public and private agencies concerned. A cooperative effort should commence at the local level in rural communities and be focussed upon up-grading the skills and living conditions of migratory farm workers and their children, using supportive services as a step toward self-development to a maximum potential, and enabling them to continue their great contribution to our society without suffering deprivation.

DEFINITION OF "MIGRANT"

Congress did not define the term "Migrant" but established a "Migrant Health Act" which made it necessary for administrative purposes to develop a working definition of the term, as follows: "An agricultural migrant is a person who moves each year to one or more work locations beyond normal commuting distance from his home. His migration follows a seasonal course, often through several states. Customarily he returns to a place he calls 'home' when the crop season is over elsewhere. He may or may not be accompanied by family dependents."

There are many kinds of migratory workers in America, but we are mainly concerned with the agricultural migrant and his family because "agricultural labor" is specifically exempted from much protective legislation covering other types of workers who move about, such as construction workers or lumber workers. For example, workers employed in agriculture are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act, Federal Wage and Hour Law. All states except Hawaii exempt them from unemployment insurance and all but California exempt them from disability insurance. Only a limited number are covered under social security. Residence requirements make it difficult for them to qualify for assistance benefits.

Most Federal social and labor legislation contains specific exemptions for farm labor, and most State and county social, labor, and welfare laws provide either that "nonresidents shall be ineligible" or like the Federal Laws, exempt agricultural workers.1/

The agricultural worker whether migrant or not is identified mainly in the language describing exclusions rather than inclusions in protective legislation. It has thus created an artificial category of people in need of special consideration.

HOW MANY MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE THERE?

Estimates vary and are hard to pin down exactly, but background information developed by the Bureau of the Census 2/provides a starting point. For example, in the peak month of July, 1957, a total of 1,527,000 children 10 to 15 years of age worked on farms. Of these 1,012,000 were 10 to 13 years of age. Migrant children are among this group, but not identified as a proportion of it.

In the school month of October, 1957, it is estimated that 690,000 youths from 14 to 17 years of age were working in agriculture and 45 percent of these were classified as paid workers. Here again migrant children were included but not identified.

The total estimated number of domestic agricultural migrant workers in the United States is about 500,000 -- including those who migrate within States as well as between States. This number has not decreased significantly in the past 10 years -- nor is it likely to in the foreseeable future.

An estimated 175,000 to 225,000 children under 18 migrate with their families. A similar number of children of migrant workers do not migrate with their families. Thus, the total number of children under 18 whose parents are migrant workers is estimated to be between 350,000 and 450,000.

The most recent official statistics available indicate that there were 415,000 agricultural migrant children under 14 years of age in 1961.3/

This is a small proportion of the 33,000,000 Americans who move every year, but it is the group that can least afford the expensive costs of moving. With the termination of P.L. 78 there may be many more children in the migrant streams as family labor fills the places of single men, the Mexican Nationals (braceros). Replacements will have to be found for about 200,000 imported Mexicans when the Bracero Program expires December 31, 1963. If half of these men are replaced by families, rural communities along the path of migration will see many more migrant children and youth.

WHAT IS THEIR ECONOMIC STATUS?

Average annual earnings of all farm workers dropped from $1,125 in 1960 to $1,054 in 1961.4/

Migratory farm workers' income dropped from $1,016 in 1960 to $902 in 1961.5/ Male migrant agricultural workers averaged about 148 days work per year. Migrant families are larger than urban families; one estimate of the average size of family is 6.5 persons.6/

Economically, the migrant farm worker occupies the lowest level of any major group in the American economy.

The Secretary of Labor testifies "In 1960 . . . the migrant farm worker earned an average wage of $19.00 per week, the non-migrant $22 per week, and the factory worker $90 per week." 7/

National statistics on average family income of domestic migrants are not available. Information from a sample study in Belle Glade, Florida, showed average annual earnings of $1,733 per seasonal migratory household, with an average of 1.9 workers per household. Among migrant households in southern Texas, with an average of 6.5 members, of whom 3 were workers, average annual earnings were $2,256 in 1956 -- less than half the median income for all U.S. households that year.8/

The extremely low income earned annually by most migratory farm workers puts great pressure upon them to keep their children at work as long as possible, even during the school year. As one mother said to a school attendance officer: "If we don't all work, we don't eat."

Evidence of the importance of the economic incentive is found in the frequent, and sometimes illegal, employment of migrant children in the fields. According to a report of the U.S. Department of Labor, in fiscal 1959, 4,389 children under 16 years were illegally employed on 1,749 farms in 38 States and Puerto Rico in violation of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Of this number, 2,691 were local children and 1,698 were migrant youth. The great majority of the children who were found working during school hours -- 3,116 -- were under 14 years of age. According to the results of a survey by the Department of Labor of the migratory children found to be illegally employed in 1959, 66 percent were enrolled in school grades below normal for their ages.

At age 15 the percentage in school grades below normal for their age was 87 percent for migratory children. As the recent report of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor says:

> "This is perhaps the most distressing aspect of the migrant's condition. Children who are unable to obtain a basic elementary education will probably never be able to rise above their present circumstances to enjoy a better life. In this manner many migrants are caught in a vicious cycle.9/

WHY DO THESE FAMILIES MIGRATE?

They follow the sun and seek employment where extra hands are needed to plant and harvest the crops.

Migrants are migrants by necessity rather than by choice. Each year a substantial turnover occurs in the migrant population, with many persons leaving the migrant streams to be replaced by new entrants to the migrant work force. As far back as 1951, the President's Commission on Migratory Labor pointed out that poverty and the need to find employment, or more rewarding employment, are compelling forces that induce people to enter and remain in the migrant streams. Workers with children often find the economic compulsion to migrate particularly strong. A recent study of the incomes of migrant workers in southern Texas (an area from which farmworkers migrate to more than 30 States) reported that:

> The size of the family is associated with the need to migrate. When the family becomes too large for the earnings of one worker to support them all, he looks for work in which other members can contribute to the family income. Conversely, families quit migrating when enough members obtain local employment and it no longer pays them to migrate.10/

They also move from low wage areas to high wage areas seeking better wages and working conditions.

They have certain specialized skills and tend to follow a particular crop, such as cotton, or fruit, etc. This tends to increase travel time where a wider range of skills would enable them to remain stabilized for longer periods of time.

WHERE DO THEY GO?

Principal flow of migration of agricultural workers is along 5 main streams, but there is much "free wheeling" around between streams so that no planned services can reach the same families each year on a predictable basis. The fact is that the whole labor force is very unstable and disordered as compared with industry.

Uncertainty underlies all farming operations. Many farmers are not able to predict months or even weeks in advance how many workers they will need, when and for how long.

Crew leaders cannot be sure who will show up when the crew is ready to start or who will leave the crew on the way or join it later. A frost or sudden freeze or rain may upset a crop schedule and mean many days delay or no harvest and no work.

Harvest needs in various areas overlap and where in one week there may be no work, the next week jobs will open up in many places at once. Farm labor information offices try to guide workers to employers and help make the many thousands of adjustments that have to take place to harvest the crops.

According to the Bureau of Employment Security the main lines of migration are as follows:

> "The east coast movement -- involving about 50,000 workers -- beginning in Florida in the winter and following the east coast to New England.
>
> "The sugar-beet and fruit movement -- involving some 75,000 workers almost entirely of Mexican descent -- beginning in Texas in April and flowing up into the North Central, Mountain, and Pacific Northwest States.
>
> "The Southwest cotton-harvest movement -- involving some 100,000 workers -- beginning in July in Texas and flowing westward into New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California.
>
> "The Western States movement -- involving over 100,000 workers -- up and down the Pacific Coast States for the harvesting of a wide diversity of crops.
>
> "The wheat and small grain harvest movement -- involving about 50,000 men -- beginning in Texas and flowing north into Montana, North Dakota, a and even Canada. Since this movement does not involve any extensive migration of families, it is not of special concern to this report."11/

WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF HIGH MOBILITY ON CHILDREN OF MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS?

Mobility is hard on children even among the 33 million Americans who move every year, the vast majority of whom move into steady employment, to establish a home in a new community. Children of most of these families are moved between terms, so as not to interrupt their schooling. They come to a new school well fed, well washed, well clothed, their school lunch money in their pockets, and able to meet other children on somewhat equal footing. But the child of migratory farm workers must move when the crop season ends, regardless of schools. His unstable and insecure life has a profoundly disruptive effect particularly compounded for the one whose family cannot provide him with the good shoes, the clean clothes and the school lunch money that might give him at least an even break when he comes straggling in in the middle of the term to enter a room full of strange faces.

Constant change of schools means loss of time, loss of credit for work, inadequate transfer of records, and an inevitable falling behind in the normal grade level for his age.

> "Although the migratory child must be educated in order to become a useful and well-adjusted citizen, society has not given him the chance

to receive even minimal training. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Anthony J. Celebrezze . . . summarized the low educational attainments of migratory children:

"Migrant agricultural workers are often described as America's forgotten people and their children are referred to as 'the most educationally deprived group of children in our nation.' They enter school late, their attendance is poor, their progress is slow, they drop out early; consequently their illiteracy is high. Studies indicate that most migrant children are far below grade level and that their school achievement is usually under fourth grade."12/

When the migrant child reaches adolescence, the disparity between his age and size and that of his classmates is magnified for him, becomes painful, and is a significant factor in his desire to drop out of school. There is pressure from the family to make him go to work in the fields, to follow the crops, to increase the family take-home pay. A migratory farm worker must value education very highly to keep his child in school for the full term. It means real sacrifice. Probably nothing would contribute more to keeping a child in school than steady work for his father.

WHO ARE OUR MIGRANT CHILDREN?

Migrant youth come from racial, national or socio-economic minorities. They include Texas Mexicans, a considerable number of whom speak no English.

It is significant to note the place of the family in a "crew". It is common in the southwest to find a crew which may be composed of 50 to 100 persons who are in an "extended family" relationship. Not only including grandmother and grandfather, but many sons and daughters and their wives and children, and cousins as well as "compadres" (someone similar to a Godfather), all of whom feel a responsibility for each other.

There may be infants and children as part of the group. The grandmother and grandfather are taken along as a necessary part of the crew to perform the important function of "day care" or baby-sitting for all the non-working children while their parents and the older children are in the fields.

The crew leader may be one of the older sons who can speak English and who knows how to deal with the farmers and contractors. He is the one who plans and manages each move. He must find the housing and food along the way and handle any emergencies that arise. He is the bridge to the local community when a crisis arises, such as illness, accidents, injuries, or violations of law, etc. He acts as interpreter and go-between for the group and the community. He has therefore very great power over the group. If he is honest and competent and experienced the group is in good hands, but if he is not the group is at his mercy, and they can get into serious trouble.

Our migrant youth may include children of "Green-card" Mexicans, or "viseros," thousands of whom come across the border to work in the crops, and migrate long distances. Many of these families return across the border at the end of the season, because the cost of living is lower in Mexico and they can stretch out

the slim savings better. Their children speak little or no English, and few adults speak English in the home.

Here we have a group of foreign nationals, many of whom originally came in as "braceros" or single men under contract as defined under PL 78, but who have returned to Mexico to bring in the whole family under a "Green Card" which enables them all to work and move from job to job in or out of agriculture, but requires them not to become a public charge, and to report once a year to the Immigration Service. This is the way many have established here and finally become American citizens.

There are thousands of Negro children in our migrant streams, going from Florida to New York and from other southern states up into Michigan and Wisconsin.

There are low-income Anglos from the southern hills and mountains, forced out of depressed areas, who form another cultural group along the migrant path. Likewise there are Indians and other minorities. Cultural differences and language barriers increase the difficulty of communication and community acceptance wherever they go. Rejected by many communities, migrant youth are thrown back upon their own kind thus intensifying rather than ameliorating differences. Family ties are unusually strong and the family is the only unit of society understood by many of them.

Language differences, differences in cultural patterns, and social organization and values, on the part of traditional agencies of settled communities far from the home base of the migrant combine to make migrant youth feel more unwelcome.

Intergroup tensions among adult workers stemming from fear of newcomers or non-residents or foreigners who "get the job because they will work for less" are reflected in similar tensions among school age youth, in towns along the migratory path, particularly where there is high unemployment.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THE HANDICAPS BORNE BY OUR MIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

The fact of migrancy or extreme mobility coupled with extremely low income produces a whole series of handicaps each compounding the other -- poor health, poor education, poor nutrition, poor housing, and social rejection.

SETTLING

It has been observed that one way out of the trap begins with the attenpt to settle and become a part of a community. Most migrant families have a "home base" where they spend the longest single period of the year, or where they "winter over." This is where the children can stay the longest time in one school, and where it is possible for the family to become legal "residents," where they may be able to find help from the "welfare" when the skimpy savings run out. Unfortunately most of the home base areas simply do not have year round employment in agriculture and insufficient supplementary employment to stabilize the family in one spot. The local taxpayers will not support these families on welfare when there is work

elsewhere any more than the farm worker will live on welfare when he can find a good job elsewhere. So the cycle starts again.

Out of 415,000 migrant children it is estimated that 175,000 to 225,000 do not migrate, but stay at a home base with relatives. These are the children who might be gaining ground by spending longer periods of time in school and by relating to the services of the community. These are the children who may be reached by the immunization clinics or by the regular school health programs.

EMPLOYMENT DECASUALIZATION

Obviously any effort that can be made to stabilize the family in a community will help the child. Employment methods which introduce an orderly system into the present chaotic labor demand and supply will help the farmer and the farm worker, and the rural community as well as the children in it. The present "free" or unregulated flow of labor along the migratory paths where the labor market may be glutted one day and scarce the next and the general uncertainty that prevails, produces wasteful moving about of migrants who can lease afford to move, and crippling under-employment for the majority of them. This is hardly the life in which to raise a family.

The Annual Worker Plan is an attempt on the part of the Employment Service to work with farm operators to arrange an orderly way of locating and relocating domestic farm workers. However, there are no funds for transportation of domestic workers and no firm contractual commitments such as there are for the Mexican bracero under the PL 78, so it is difficult to make the Annual Worker Plan function on a large scale. Yet, about 155,000 workers were placed through this plan in 1959.

In general the farm placement service tries to meet the demands first out of local labor supply. This tends to reduce migrancy. However wages are apt to be lower in the big labor supply states and frequently workers there will leave early to go north in search of higher wages, wanting to get there ahead of the others. This is the age-old pattern of migrancy and confusion.

Proposals have been made to set up a plan for domestic workers somewhat similar to that provided imported Mexican Nationals under PL 78 which would provide transportation, housing, subsistance, medical care for family groups, provide a minimum guarantee of employment at the prevailing wage, and afford certain other protections to out-of-area workers brought in to supplement the local labor force. Hopefully, this would reduce migrancy and introduce an element of order into the employment of domestic farm workers which does not now exist. Hopefully, it would reduce the number of families with children traveling long distances in search of work, gambling on baseless rumors, or appearing finally for work so undernourished and exhausted that they are almost unemployable.

HEALTH

The infant mortality rate is often three times as high in major labor supply areas as in nearby urban areas.

The new Migrant Health Act permitting strengthening and extending of local

health and medical care services to migratory farm workers and their families has just been started. Many rural communities are not aware that this resource is available to them as an aid in solving some of the overwhelming health problems of migrant children. Word should be sent to all communities along the path of major migrations and help given to them in making use of these funds for direct health service to migrant families.

For example, the following goals were established for the migrant health program in California and progress is being made along these lines:

1. Elimination of residence requirements for admission to county hospitals.

2. Expansion of family clinics, maternity care, crippled children's clinics, and other outpatient services to bring them close to the migrant camps. Expansion of immunization programs and other communicable disease services.

3. Provision of transportation for patients when needed. Additional staff, including physicians, nutritionists, social workers, and public health nurses for intensified work in migrant camps.

4. Improvement in coordination of the work of health and welfare agencies.

5. Assistance in meeting the costs of medical and hospital care is essential.

6. Adaptation of usual public health services to be more responsive to the culture and living and working patterns of migrants.13/

HOUSING

Housing for migratory farm workers range from the very best, a minimum essential cement block cabin with inside plumbing, to the wood cabin with or without floor and usually without water, to "ditch bank" living in an old car. The principal characteristic of migrant housing is its crowded quarters with no privacy and no sanitary facilities except at a distance. Samples of reports from a migrant ministry worker are as follows:

> "Almost without exception, the migrant housing consists of one room that may have beds, but seldom mattresses. In most instances there is a stove. ... often as many as 10 live in a 12 by 16 cabin. I know of no camps that have indoor toilet facilities."

It has been found difficult for small growers to finance on-the-farm housing of good standards for the use during a short season. During the bracero program growers associations or large labor contracting groups built housing of the barracks type suitable for single man labor, meeting legal standards required by the treaty with Mexico for the use of imported nationals. During the 10 years of the use of single male labor most family type housing has been either demolished or removed to slum fringe areas where it is occupied by very low income families, some of whom are migrants.

A new practical approach to family housing for domestic workers is badly needed. Past experience has shown that it has to be subsidized until such time as a family can settle and begin home ownership.

Home ownership through self-help housing cooperatives at winter base communities has been found possible in a small demonstration with the help of private voluntary agencies and long-term loans.

EDUCATION

The main problem in giving an adequate education to a migrant child is to enable him to stay in school and have an equal chance to keep up with his age mates. With strong family ties as a dominant factor most migrant parents will not leave their children behind as they migrate. Children are an integral part of a working family complex. For example, too often we find a young girl of 12 or 13 years of age who has never been to school at all because she has been the baby sitter for all the others. Teenage girls are the ones most likely to be thus handicapped among certain cultures where the girl children are kept very close to home.

Day care centers for pre-school children and infants might alleviate this condition and permit this little girl to go to school, but is will take more than just the availability of a day care center to change lifelong habits and attitudes among parents who have little experience with such centers. Much interpretation is needed here. Voluntary community agencies can be of great assistance is this program.

The schools along the path of migration may be able to set up meaningful educational programs for migrant children but they are handicapped with financial problems.

The seasonal impact of migratory children produces an acute fiscal problem for rural school districts which, in comparison to urban school districts, already face the most serious financial handicaps in our educational system. It is highly impractical to expect the rural communities to provide adequate education to children of transient, low-income families who do not contribute to the local tax system or otherwise help to defray the cost of educating their children.

As the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare testified before the Subcommittee on Migratory Labor:

> "It is not uncommon for the number of school-age children in a community to increase more than 200 percent during the peak of the harvest season. Regular educational funds are not available to provide additional classrooms, teachers, transportation, equipment and supplies for children of the migrants. They are an unacceptable burden for many school districts.
>
> "Communities into which migrants move are reluctant to tax themselves for the education of the children of migrants, because these migratory pupils may reside in their districts for only 2 to 8 weeks."

Adequate educational programs for migratory children would be possible if funds were available to the appropriate educational agencies.

The seven States that presently operate summer schools for migrant children have clearly demonstrated the feasibility of educating the migrant child. In these summer sessions many pupils have been able to do enough work to complete the school year or even to make up one and sometimes two grades of schooling. Total enrollment in these summer schools during 1961 however, was only 3,855, a small fraction of the number of migrant farm children.

Federal assistance would make it possible to implement these summer programs on a national basis. Federal aid to local school districts on the basis of the migratory school-age population would relieve serious financial difficulties and would enable these districts to provide adequate education for migratory children. A program of grants for summer schools would allow communities to use otherwise idle facilities for the purpose of reducing the disruptive effects of frequent travel. Finally, a program of coordinating grants would make it possible for local school districts and State educational agencies to work together, on a State and interstate basis, in an effort to develop continuity in educational programs for migratory children.

Like their children, adult migratory agricultural workers are in serious need of educational programs. Adult migratory workers have an extremely low level of educational attainment, and they also are almost totally unfamiliar with practical skills for modern living. The lack of basic formal education and lack of knowledge of modern community living tend to perpetuate the substandard economic and social conditions under which migratory farm workers have lived for several decades.

It is clear that adult migratory workers have received even less formal education than their children. The Department of Agriculture has found out that, of all migrants over the age of 25, one third are functionally illiterate. An additional 43 percent have no more than an eighth grade education; the median years of school completed by migrants over the age of 25 is 6.5. The same age group in the general population has a median of 11 years of schooling.

A lack of practical knowledge among migrants is common. In many cases, migratory workers do not understand or properly use ordinary living facilities, such as toilets, showers, bedding, kitchen appliances and garbage cans. The result has been unnecessary damage to property and needless expense for repairs. In addition, there is frequent ignorance of the simplest rules of hygiene and nutrition. Educational efforts are also needed to enable migrants even to take advantage of the limited legal protections and community services which are presently available to them.14/

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Recognizing that farm workers are persons of worth who have the capacity to make a significant cultural, social and economic contribution to the larger community, it was recommended by a recent conference of growers, farm workers, public and private voluntary agencies, that an effort be made at the community level to provide some way in which the farm worker would make himself heard and join in the decision-making processes of the total community, particularly where his own destiny is involved.15/

There is very little leadership in agricultural labor outside of the family itself. In order to cultivate goodleadership it will be necessary for the community to reach out to include those who have dropped out of the migrant stream and are settling and perhaps use them as a bridge across which some of the migrant families can cross to become a part of the community.

There is poor communication among most groups concerned, and much unnecessary tension arises from this one factor. If nothing more is done than to establish a regular series of meetings involving community agencies with a few members of the farm worker community, ways can be found to solve many problems at the local level. Usually it requires some one person to make it his whole business to see that this kind of communication takes place.

Particularly in winter base communities there can be development of neighborhood groups working for self-improvement through self-help. Some church and other voluntary agencies need to understand how to work with and encourage this self-respecting approach to up-grading standards of living. Better use can be made of charitable donations to help the needy than in a "hand-out" of food and clothes. An example can be cited of the self-help housing cooperatives started by such groups as the American Friends Service Committee, in which the migrant farm worker himself contributes his labor.

It is recommended that a continuing committee be formed in each rural community bringing together regularly representatives of public and private agencies, elected officials, churchmen, educators, health, housing, welfare, and employment officials, farmers and farm workers to seek areas of agreement in which common problems can be solved.16/

FOOTNOTES

1. The President's Committee on Migratory Labor. "Report to the President on Domestic Migratory Farm Labor." 1960, p. 17.

2. Bureau of Census. Current Population Survey. Series P-50, No. 83, and unpublished data provided by the Bureau of the Census.

3. U. S. Senate 88th Congress 1st session, Report No. 198, May 27, 1963, p. 2.

4. The Condition of Farm Workers in 1962. Report to the Board of Directors of National Sharecroppers Fund, 112 East 19th St., N.Y. 3, N.Y.

5. Ibid.

6. Children in Migrant Families. Report to the Committee on Appropriations, U. S. Senate 87th Congress, 1st Session, submitted by U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Children's Bureau, December, 1960.

7. Migratory Labor Hearings: Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U. S. Senate, 1st and 2nd Sessions - on S1129 - Vol. 2, Washington D. C., Part I, May 17 and 18,1961; Part II, February 8 and 9, 1962.

8. Children in Migrant Families, op. cit.

9. Ibid.

10. William H. Metzler and Frederic O. Sargent: "Incomes of Migratory Agricultural Workers" Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 950, March, 1960, 3-126, p. 3.

11. Children in Migrant Families, op. cit.

12. U. S. Senate, 88th Congress, 1st Session Report No. 201, p. 3.

13. Wyckoff, Florence R. Health Projects for Migrant Farm Families. National Consumers Committee for Research and Education, Inc., Washington D. C.,1963.

14. Children in Migrant Families, op. cit.

15. Wyckoff, op. cit.

16. Ibid.

ADDENDUM:

Recent Federal Legislative Action affecting migrant children and youth:

The U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor has for the past few years conducted intensive studies and held extensive hearings throughout the whole United States.

Publications of this Subcommittee constitute a comprehensive and invaluable body of knowledge on the subject. Various measures have been proposed to Congress to cope with the problems of migratory farm workers.

The only measure to become enacted so far is the "Migrant Health Act" P L 692-87 which is now in its first year of operation and makes funds available to pay part of the costs of improving and extending health and medical services to migratory farm workers. The project grant money is used to stimulate local action in offering direct services to migrants.

Other measures which have passed the Senate and are under consideration in the House of Representatives are:

S. 521 - To improve educational opportunities for migrant children
S. 522 - Authorize grants for day-care facilities for migrant children
S. 523 - Prohibit harmful child labor in agriculture
S. 524 - Require Federal Registration of Crew Leaders
S. 525 - Establish a National Advisory Council on Migratory Labor
S. 526 - Authorize grants for sanitation facilities.

In other action by Congress, P L 78, "The Bracero Program" will be ended as of December 31, 1963. Bills are pending to reverse this decision.

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3. "Farm Labor Fact Book." U. S. Department of Labor, 1959.

4. Saunders, Lyle."Cultural Difference and Medical Care." Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1954.

5. Fuller, Varden."No Work Today! Plight of America's Migrants" Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 190 Public Affairs Committee, 1953.